

management for diabetes patients at Rowan Chowan Hospital. Funding received by East Carolina School of Cardiology implemented remote monitoring for RCCHC/ECU cardiac patients and funding received by Piedmont Health Services implemented remote monitoring for CVD patients.

North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Phase II Health Disparities funding, received in July 2009, is targeting Medicaid and dual eligible patients with CVD in five additional Community Health Centers (Bertie Rural Health, Greene County Health Services, Kinston Community Health, Commwell Community Health and Cabarrus Community Health Center). In September 2010, RCCHC received a three-year HRSA Telehealth Network Grant and has expanded or will expand the pilot to three new and one existing North Carolina community health centers (First Choice Community Health Center, Piedmont Health Services, Robeson Community Health Center, Wake Health Systems), one rural hospital (Chowan Hospital), and Pitt County Memorial Hospital Health Institute. RCCHC is currently monitoring and managing patients in 28 North Carolina counties from Ahoskie.³²⁴

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- **East Carolina University Telepsychiatry**

The ECU telemedicine program has been in continuous operation since its inception in 1992, making it one of the longest running clinical telemedicine operations in the world. The Telemedicine Center provides clinical telehealth services and support, conducts telehealth research, consults and oversees new and existing statewide telehealth networks and openly educates health care providers and the public on the utility of telehealth. Currently, ECU's telemedicine network consist of various sites across the state delivering direct patient care from multiple physician read stations within the medical campus. The Telemedicine Center provides the necessary functions for conducting clinical telemedicine transactions, including scheduling, network operations, troubleshooting, training, and administrative support to those sites receiving medical services from ECU Physicians and other local health care providers.

The telepsychiatry network includes sites in 13 Eastern North Carolina counties (Northampton, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson, Pitt, Greene, Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico, and Jones). Three full-time equivalent psychiatrists provide services to patients through videoconferencing and face-to-face services. The psychiatrists also provide consultation and support for other clinical providers for complicated cases and coordinate with the mobile crisis teams in the 13 counties.³²⁵

³²⁴ Kim Schwartz, CEO, Roanoke-Chowan Community Health Center, electronic communication, January 31, 2011.

³²⁵ Sy Saeed, MACPsych, Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatric Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Chief of Psychiatry, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, electronic communication, January 18, 2011.